

# Media Release – For Immediate Release

June 4, 2013

---

## Tackling Hidden Homelessness in Clarenville

'Operation Replenish' plans June 15th household drive

With growth comes challenges; One of the greatest challenges being faced by a growing number of people in Clarenville is the lack of affordable housing.

This problem was recognized early on in the current development boom and at an inaugural meeting organized by Human Resources Labour and Employment (HRLE) in 2008, the Regional Action Committee on Housing (REACH) board was formed. The vision of REACH is "for every person in our region to have access to comfortable housing in their community".

Tracey Coady is REACH's Housing Support Worker. Now in her 2nd year of work, she has seen the problem first hand too often. To build awareness she has made several presentations to interested groups on the issue. "Believe it or not, homelessness does exist in this region. I am seeing an increasing number of people come through my doors that are completely homeless and have nowhere else to go."

### OPERATION REPLENISH

Len Stratton was one of the people who saw Tracey's presentation and he was moved to action by it. He spearheaded a meeting of key members of the local Ministerial Association, including the Anglican, United (Shoal Harbour and Clarenville), Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Pentecostal Churches and together they are moving forward with an initiative to help address the problems identified by Coady - they are calling it "Operation Replenish".

"The goal of Operation Replenish is to work with REACH to redistribute household furniture and appliances from those who have, to people who need" said Stratton. "We've selected Saturday June 15th as the day we'll be collecting and redistributing. Any items remaining will be stored at local storage Unit arranged by REACH, and they will be distributed as needed".

Evelyn Tilley, co-chair of the REACH board feels that Operation Replenish has the potential to be a great success. "For many people, their need for everyday items like food, gasoline, and electricity, is out of reach of their income, and therefore limits their ability to buy other necessities like furniture and household items. If we can help people by providing some basic items like a bed, then that will allow them to spend the money they do have on other necessities", most of which we all take for granted".

## **YOU CAN HELP MAKE OPERATION REPLENISH A SUCCESS!**

Operation Replenish is asking you to look around your home and identify worthwhile furniture and appliances that you no longer need. (Operation Replenish will not be collecting food or clothing). On Saturday, June 15 between 9 am and 3 pm you can call 466.2965 for pickup or deliver your items to the rear entrance of Memorial United Church on Marine Drive.

If you are in need of furniture or appliances please contact Tracey Coady, Housing Support worker for REACH at 466.6812 or Evelyn Tilley, Co-Chair or REACH at 466-5721, to arrange for delivery.

## **ITEMS SOUGHT**

### **Bedroom**

Bed components, (including frames, box spring, mattress) dressers and highboys

### **Living Room**

Couch and chair, Coffee/end tables, Wall hangings and pictures, Lamps

### **Kitchen**

Table/Chairs, Microwaves, toasters, kettles, pots & pans, and mixing bowls

### **General**

Blinds/Curtains, Vacuum Cleaners, Towels, linens and blankets (If new), TV (Flat screen only), Hanging mirrors, clocks and decorative items

-30-

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Paul Tilley, Media Liaison  
Pauldtilley@gmail.com  
709.427.6768

Len Stratton, Project Coordinator  
lenstratton@warp.nfld.net  
709.466.7156

Tracey Coady, REACH Housing Support Worker  
clarevillehousing@gmail.com

709.466.6812  
Evelyn Tilley, Chair REACH board  
Evelyn.Tilley@easternhealth.ca  
709.466.5721